

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASECONTACT:

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**Final Week of California Earthquake Preparedness Month Campaign
Focuses on Family and Neighborhood Preparedness**

SACRAMENTO – The Director of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) today urged Californians to focus their energies on preparedness efforts at home and in their neighborhoods as the 18th annual California Earthquake Preparedness Month Campaign enters its final week, April 22-28.

“The Loma Prieta, Northridge and Napa earthquakes illustrate the short and long-term impacts of an emergency on the communities they affect,” said OES Director Dallas Jones.

“Many Californians have stored food, water, flashlights and radios in preparation for the next earthquake,” Jones noted. “But every Californian should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours after a major earthquake strikes their community. Family and Neighborhood Preparedness Week provides everyone with an opportunity to take the next step.”

Jones suggested Californians develop an emergency plan, obtain a first aid kit and learn how and when to turn off utilities.

“Simple things such as having a place where loved ones can re-unite if they are separated when an earthquake occurs or the phone number of someone living out-of-state whom they can contact can reduce everyone’s stress level,” he explained. “So can assigning loved ones a specific function and designating friends or relatives to pick up younger children from school.”

Because emergency response personnel, including paramedics, may not be able to meet the immediate needs of everyone after a major earthquake, Jones also recommended that responsible family members learn basic first aid.

“Breathing difficulty, broken bones, cuts and shock are common after earthquakes,” he noted. “Californians trained to treat these conditions until professional medical assistance is available can help save the lives and reduce the trauma of loved ones and neighbors can expect after an earthquake.”

Jones also urged Californians to take time before the next earthquake to identify the locations of utility shut-off valves and switches and teach responsible loved ones when and how to turn them off.

“Damage to utility lines is a common problem in earthquakes, but it’s important that Californians know when, as well as how, to turn off their gas, electricity and water,” Jones said. “Many Californians add to their stress by needlessly turning off the gas after an earthquake even if they do not hear or smell leaking gas.

Jones also stressed the importance of preparing as a neighborhood. He encouraged neighborhoods to form community emergency response teams and conduct drills to test their skills levels.

“Earthquakes impact more than individuals,” he said. “After a damaging earthquake, many Californians may have to rely on their neighbors and the community at-large for help, particularly while emergency response teams are busy assisting those with the most-urgent needs.”

The OES Director cited well-trained first-aid and light search and rescue teams as key elements of a neighborhood emergency response team. He also encouraged neighborhood leaders to include nearby businesses, schools and organizations in their efforts.

“Everyone in the community has a stake in earthquake preparedness, and everyone has something to contribute, whether it be donating supplies to the neighborhood response team, providing first aid training or helping expertise in plan development,” he said.

Jones cited efforts by the California State Automobile Association (AAA) in Northern California and the California Science Center in Los Angeles as valuable resources in the effort to promote preparedness.

AAA is making copies of the OES “Ready to Ride It Out” earthquake preparedness brochure available through its Northern California offices; the California Science Center is commemorating Family and Neighborhood Preparedness Week by making the brochure available to science center visitors.

“Major Earthquake Preparedness Month Campaign events during Family and Neighborhood Preparedness Week include the City of Albany’s EQPP Earthquake Drill on April 28 and the City of Santa Rosa’s Disaster Academy, April 30-May 1. Details about campaign events and additional preparedness information are available on the OES Home Page at <http://www.oes.ca.gov>.

Recent California Quake Activity

Between April 12 (1221 hrs) and April 19 (0748 hrs), California experience more than 250 earthquakes. Of those, 12 were magnitude 3.0 or larger. View a map of recent earthquakes at <http://www.quake.wr.usgs.gov/recenteqs/latest.html>.

Date	Time	Location	Mag.
Apr. 19	0202	17 mi SE of Gorman	3.0
Apr. 18	0337	27 mi ENE of San Clemente Island	3.0
Apr. 17	1923	2 mi S of Obsidian Butte	3.0
Apr. 16	2242	7 mi WSW of Bagdad	3.0
Apr. 16	1405	13 mi NW of Alder Springs	3.0
Apr. 14	0751	19 mi ENE of Pine Flat	3.5
Apr. 14	0140	6 mi N of Lake Pillsbury	3.2
Apr. 13	2247	2 mi ENE of Obsidian Butte	3.0
Apr. 13	1650	2 mi. SE of Point Arena	3.0
Apr. 13	0450	6 mi ESE of Yorba Linda	3.5
Apr. 13	0134	3 mi N of The Geysers	3.4
Apr. 12	1948	6 mi NW of Parkfield	3.4